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EXAMINER

SAIN, GAUTAM

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,992

Applicant(s)

KURUOGLU ET AL.

Examiner

Gautam Sain

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

PD

DETAILED ACTION

- 1) This is a Final Rejection in response to the Remarks filed on 7/21/05.
- 2) Claims 1-22 are pending and rejected in this application.
- 3) The examiner does NOT introduces any new lines of rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 4) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4-1) Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carleton et al (US Patent 5781727, issued Jul 1998) in view of Tran (US Patent 6054990, filed Jul 1996), further in view of Simonoff (US 6351777, filed Apr 23, 1999), further in view of Cass (US 5692073, issued Nov 1997).

In regard to independent claim 1, Carleton teaches a plurality of workstations comprising a computer processor, a display (ie., computers linked together displaying)(col 1, line 65 – col 2, line 5). Carleton does not expressly teach, but Tran teaches a capture device for capturing a digital image of a document (ie., text or graphical illustration, camera , electronic notepad; digital)(co 2, lines 59-63; col 7, lines 46 - 60).

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Carleton teaches a base computer communicating with the plurality of workstation (ie., a single computer runs an application and displays on other computers)(col 1, line 65 – col 2, line 5).

Carleton does not expressly teach but Tran teaches (a) identify handwritten annotations in digital images of document captured at each workstation (ie., handwritten recognition software for entry/display of pen-based computer as an electronic notepad for annotating photographs, pictures captured by a camera that is uploaded to a user computer) (col 7, lines 55-65).

Carleton in view of Tran doesn't expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (b) communicate data ... plurality of workstations (ie., users at dissimilar computers can annotate the information presented to all users)(col 1, lines 20-25).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (c) use of data ... each workstation (ie., a decoder at client computer that decodes at a user location so user can work on his/her own version)(col 4, lines 40-50).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (d) displaying ... first and second workstations (ie., first and second users instantiate objects on the whiteboard clients, that are relayed to the other clients)(col 7, lines 5-18).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches the one or more ... each workstation (ie., at each client computer, the interpreter decoder decodes information specifying an operation to be performed at user)(col 4, lines 44-50).

Carleton in view of Tran and Simonoff does not teach, but Cass teaches annotations on a "hardcopy" document (ie., image of a marked document instance, an

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image of a particular hardcopy instance of a document and on which instance the use has made a mark (... graphical or written annotations))(Cass, lines 12-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton to include digital/graphical electronic files and handwritten annotations as taught by Tran, providing the benefit of creating and attaching text or graphical illustrations to a message, file, data set including photographic annotations depicting circumstances leading up the photograph/graphical image (Tran, col 2, lines 59-67), further to include users at dissimilar computers annotating the information presented to users, a decoder at client computer that decodes at a user location specifying an operation to be performed at user location, where first and second users collaboratively annotate objects on the whiteboard as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating interchange of information between two or more dissimilar computer users, where users can annotate the information presented to all users (Simonoff, 1, lines 20-30) further to include annotations of an image of an image of a particular hardcopy instance document as taught by Cass, providing the benefit of using formless forms offering a new flexibility when applied in existing paper based user interfaces also providing new applications for paper-based user interface (Cass, col 3, lines 30-37).

In regard to independent claim 11, Carleton teaches a plurality of workstations comprising a computer processor, a display (ie., computers linked together displaying)(col 1, line 65 – col 2, line 5). Carleton does not expressly teach, but Tran teaches a capture device for capturing a digital image of a document at each

workstation (ie., text or graphical illustration, camera , electronic notepad; digital)(co 2, lines 59-63; col 7, lines 46 - 60).

Carleton teaches a base computer communicating with the plurality of workstation (ie., a single computer runs an application and displays on other computers)(col 1, line 65 – col 2, line 5).

Carleton does not express teach but Tran teaches identifying ... workstation (ie., handwritten recognition software for entry/display of pen-based computer as an electronic notepad for annotating photographs, pictures captured by a camera that is uploaded to a user computer) (col 7, lines 55-65).

Carleton in view of Tran doesn't expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (c) distributing data ... plurality of workstations (ie., users at dissimilar computers can annotate the information presented to all users)(col 1, lines 20-25).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (d) using the data ... each workstation (ie., a decoder at client computer that decodes at a user location so user can work on his/her own version)(col 4,lines 40-50).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (e) displaying ... first and second workstations (ie., first and second users instantiate objects on the whiteboard clients, that are relayed to the other clients)(col 7, lines 5-18).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches the one or more ... each workstation (ie., at each client computer, the interpreter decoder decodes information specifying an operation to be performed at user)(col 4, lines 44-50).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches wherein the one or more ... annotation's creation and author (ie., user can select shapes to annotate the whiteboard/image)(fig 7).

Carleton in view of Tran and Simonoff does not teach, but Cass teaches annotations on a "hardcopy" document (ie., image of a marked document instance, an image of a particular hardcopy instance of a document and on which instance the use has made a mark (... graphical or written annotations))(Cass, lines 12-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton to include digital/graphical electronic files and handwritten annotations as taught by Tran, providing the benefit of creating and attaching text or graphical illustrations to a message, file, data set including photographic annotations depicting circumstances leading up the photograph/graphical image (Tran, col 2, lines 59-67), further to include users at dissimilar computers annotating the information presented to users, a decoder at client computer that decodes at a user location specifying an operation to be performed at user location, an annotation selection where first and second users collaboratively annotate objects on the whiteboard as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating interchange of information between two or more dissimilar computer users, where users can annotate the information presented to all users (Simonoff, 1, lines 20-30) further to include annotations of an image of an image of a particular hardcopy instance document as taught by Cass, providing the benefit of using formless forms offering a new flexibility when applied in existing paper

based user interfaces also providing new applications for paper-based user interface (Cass, col 3, lines 30-37).

In regard to independent claim 12, Carleton teaches a plurality of workstations comprising a computer processor, a display (ie., computers linked together displaying)(col 1, line 65 – col 2, line 5). Carleton does not expressly teach, but Tran teaches a capture device for capturing a digital image of a document (ie., text or graphical illustration, camera , electronic notepad; digital)(co 2, lines 59-63; col 7, lines 46 - 60).

Carleton teaches a base computer communicating with the plurality of workstation (ie., a single computer runs an application and displays on other computers)(col 1, line 65 – col 2, line 5).

Carleton does not express teach but Tran teaches (a) identifying handwritten annotations in digital images of document captured at each workstation (ie., handwritten recognition software for entry/display of pen-based computer as an electronic notepad for annotating photographs, pictures captured by a camera that is uploaded to a user computer) (col 7, lines 55-65).

Carleton in view of Tran doesn't expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (b) communicating data ... plurality of workstations (ie., users at dissimilar computers can annotate the information presented to all users)(col 1, lines 20-25).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (c) using the data representing ... each workstation (ie., a decoder at client computer that decodes at a user location so user can work on his/her own version)(col 4, lines 40-50).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches (d) displaying ... first and second workstations (ie., first and second users instantiate objects on the whiteboard clients, that are relayed to the other clients)(col 7, lines 5-18).

Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches the one or more ... each workstation (ie., at each client computer, the interpreter decoder decodes information specifying an operation to be performed at user)(col 4, lines 44-50).

Carleton in view of Tran and Simonoff does not teach, but Cass teaches annotations on a "hardcopy" document (ie., image of a marked document instance, an image of a particular hardcopy instance of a document and on which instance the use has made a mark (... graphical or written annotations))(Cass, lines 12-19).

Carleton in view of Tran and Simonoff does not teach, but Cass teaches annotations on a "hardcopy" document (ie., image of a marked document instance, an image of a particular hardcopy instance of a document and on which instance the use has made a mark (... graphical or written annotations))(Cass, lines 12-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton to include digital/graphical electronic files and handwritten annotations as taught by Tran, providing the benefit of creating and attaching text or graphical illustrations to a message, file, data set including photographic annotations depicting circumstances leading up the photograph/graphical image (Tran, col 2, lines 59-67), further to include users at dissimilar computers annotating the information presented to users, a decoder at client computer that decodes at a user location

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specifying an operation to be performed at user location, where first and second users collaboratively annotate objects on the whiteboard as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating interchange of information between two or more dissimilar computer users, where users can annotate the information presented to all users (Simonoff, 1, lines 20-30), further to include annotations of an image of an image of a particular hardcopy instance document as taught by Cass, providing the benefit of using formless forms offering a new flexibility when applied in existing paper based user interfaces also providing new applications for paper-based user interface (Cass, col 3, lines 30-37).

Regarding claim 2, 13, Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches an additional annotation made by the first or second workstations (ie., user can add objects to whiteboard displayed; update information)(col 16, lines 25-34; col 1, line 24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill that to update the distribution of annotations to the plurality of workstations (ie., col 1, line 24 teaches updating the information presented to all users).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran to include adding objects to whiteboard displays to update information as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating collaboration between a plurality of users (Simonoff, Abstract section).

In regard to dependent claim 3, 14, Carleton does not teach, but Tran teaches capture device at least one workstation comprises a camera (ie., digital camera)(Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton to include a camera as taught by Tran, providing the benefit of annotations to graphical messages, files (Tran, col 2, lines 59-65).

In regard to dependent claim 4, 15, Carleton teaches information representing the annotation as a bitmap (ie., annotations need bitmap)(col 10, line 9 –11).

Carleton teaches information indicating the location of the annotation in a document (ie., annotation logic draws corresponding annotation at the remote computer as from the original computer)(col 7, lines 28-38).

Carleton in view of Tran and Simonoff does not teach, but Cass teaches annotations on a “hardcopy” document (ie., image of a marked document instance, an image of a particular hardcopy instance of a document and on which instance the user has made a mark (... graphical or written annotations))(Cass, lines 12-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran and Simonoff to include annotations of an image of an image of a particular hardcopy instance document as taught by Cass, providing the benefit of using formless forms offering a new flexibility when applied in existing paper based user interfaces also providing new applications for paper-based user interface (Cass, col 3, lines 30-37).

In regard to dependent claim 5, 16, Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but it would have been obvious with Simonoff’s teachings to have annotation object ... annotation (ie., the server maintains a list of files and their origination, where

the files contain annotations/updates from various client users (col 10, lines 35-65; Fig 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran to include a server that maintains a list of files and their origination as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating collaboration between a plurality of users (Simonoff, Abstract section) and distinguishing the origin location of annotations.

In regard to dependent claim 6, 17, Carleton in view of Tran does not teach, but it would have been obvious with Simonoff's teachings to have annotation ... annotation (ie., the server maintains a list of files and their meta-data associated with files that contain annotations)(Fig 6, see column labeled 'uploaded').

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran to include a server that maintains a list of files and their meta-data associated with files that contain annotations as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating collaboration between a plurality of users (Simonoff, Abstract section).

In regard to dependent claim 8, Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches plurality of workstations ... origin of the annotation (ie., individual user selects a drawing color for the annotations)(col 11, lines 44-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran to include individual user to select a drawing color as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating collaboration

between a plurality of users (Simonoff, Abstract section) and distinguishing the origin location of annotations.

In regard to dependent claim 9, Carleton teaches “each workstation is operative to identify handwritten annotations” (col 1, lines 65 – col 2, line 5).

In regard to dependent claim 10, Carleton does not specifically teach, but Tran teaches “the base computer is operative to identify handwritten annotations” (col 7, lines 46 – 65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton to include a base computer that accepts handwritten input as taught by Tran, providing the benefit of attaching graphical illustrations with annotations as an option for users.

In regard to dependent claim 19, Carleton teaches “annotations originating from at least two different other workstations”(ie., three mouses, three cursors, three arrows)(col 4, lines 60-67).

In regard to dependent claim 20, Carleton in view of Tran does not expressly teach, but Simonoff teaches plurality of workstations ... origin of the annotation (ie., individual user selects a drawing color for the annotations)(col 11, lines 44-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran to include individual user to select a drawing color as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating collaboration between a plurality of users (Simonoff, Abstract section) and distinguishing the origin location of annotations.

Regarding claim 21, 22, Simonoff teaches one or more of ... author (ie., whiteboard server maintains the specific client origination of the upload ... identity of user)(ie., col 10, lines 35-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran to include whiteboard server that maintains the specific client origination of the upload, including identity of user as taught by Simonoff, providing the benefit of facilitating collaboration between a plurality of users (Simonoff, Abstract section) and distinguishing the origin location of annotations.

4-2) Claims 7, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carleton (as cited above) in view of Tran (as cited above) and Simonoff (as cited above), further in view of Levine et al (US Patent 5680636, issued Oct 1997), further in view of Cass (as cited above).

In regard to dependent claim 7, 18, Carleton in view of Tran does not teach, but Levine teaches information representing the identity of the document with which the annotation is associated (ie., files per annotation are catalogued in a table of contents file referred to as a superfile... associated with a particular document)(col 7, lines 1-7).

Carleton in view of Tran, Simonoff and Levine does not teach, but Cass teaches annotations on a "hardcopy" document (ie., image of a marked document instance, an image of a particular hardcopy instance of a document and on which instance the use has made a mark (... graphical or written annotations))(Cass, lines 12-19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Carleton in view of Tran and Simonoff to include a catalog of

annotations as taught by Levine, providing the benefit of having a friendlier computer device (col 1, lines 50-55) and a means to access the documents that contain annotations further to include annotations of an image of an image of a particular hardcopy instance document as taught by Cass, providing the benefit of using formless forms offering a new flexibility when applied in existing paper based user interfaces also providing new applications for paper-based user interface (Cass, col 3, lines 30-37).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/21/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. On page 10, Applicant primarily argues that the references in combination fail to teach the elements and limitations of the Application. Specifically, the applicant argues that the combination of references does not teach identifying handwritten annotations made to a hardcopy document captured at a plurality of workstations, ... display criteria of each work station and the references fail to suggest users at different locations to work collaborately on a hardcopy document (see Applicant's Remarks section, page 10, middle to bottom, comprehensively).

Examiner disagrees because the references when taken together suggest the elements and limitations of Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, the Tran reference teaches the computer system with handwriting annotation, while the other references abundantly teach collaboration on forms and paper documents. Furthermore, Cass teaches an image of a particular hardcopy instance of a document and on which instance the user has made a mark (annotation) with a pen, ... (Cass, page 8, lines 12-19).

The Examiner contends that the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention based on the suggestions and teachings of Carlton, Tran, Simonoff and Levine taken together. One would have been motivated to combine these teachings to arrive at the claimed invention because of the knowledge well established in the art at the time of the invention, which would render the claimed invention as well known. The Examiner introduces a few references as *supportive evidence* of known relevant art at the time of the invention in response to Applicant's arguments. First, Hanson et al (US 6507865, filed Jan 14, 2000), which teaches a method and system for group content collaboration across a network. Specifically, Hanson teaches overlaying media objects including annotations of text on objects such as collaboration on greeting cards (see page 13, col 60 – col 14, line 5). Second, Kumar et al (US 6342906, filed Feb 2, 1999) teaches Annotation layer for synchronous collaboration.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gautam Sain whose telephone number is 571-272-4096. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GS
GS

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
9/30/2005